

## United States District Courts

Most federal cases are initially tried and decided in the United States District Courts, the federal courts of general trial jurisdiction. There are 94 courts in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the territories of Guam, the United States Virgin Islands, and the Northern Mariana Islands. With the exception of the territorial courts, all district court judges are appointed for life by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate. In each district, the judge who has served on the court the longest and who is under 65 years of age is designated as the chief judge. The chief judge has administrative duties in addition to a caseload. Within each district, the United States Bankruptcy Court hears and decides petitions of individuals and businesses seeking relief from bankruptcy. Bankruptcy judges are appointed by the court of appeals for a term of 14 years. The judges of each district appoint one or more magistrate judges, who discharge many of the ancillary duties of the district judges. There are both full-time and part-time magistrate judge positions, and these positions are assigned to the district courts according to caseload criteria. A full-time magistrate judge serves a term of eight years; a part-time magistrate judge's term is four years.

### United States District Court for the Middle District of Alabama

Frank M. Johnson, Jr. Federal Building & U.S. Courthouse,  
One Church Street, Suite B - 110, Montgomery, AL 36104  
P.O. Box 711, Montgomery, AL 36101  
Tel: (334) 954-3600  
Internet: [www.almd.uscourts.gov](http://www.almd.uscourts.gov)

#### Number of Judgeships: 3

**Areas Covered:** Counties of Autauga, Barbour, Bullock, Butler, Chambers, Chilton, Coffee, Coosa, Covington, Crenshaw, Dale, Elmore, Geneva, Henry, Houston, Lee, Lowndes, Macon, Montgomery, Pike, Randolph, Russell and Tallapoosa

#### Court Staff

District Clerk **Debra P. Hackett** ..... (334) 954-3600  
E-mail: [Debbie\\_Hackett@almd.uscourts.gov](mailto:Debbie_Hackett@almd.uscourts.gov)  
Chief Deputy Clerk **Yvonne Goodloe** ..... (334) 954-3600  
E-mail: [Yvonne\\_Goodloe@almd.uscourts.gov](mailto:Yvonne_Goodloe@almd.uscourts.gov)  
Chief Probation Officer **Leslie Craft** ..... (334) 954-3226  
P.O. Box 39, Montgomery, AL 36102

#### Chambers of Chief Judge Mark E. Fuller

Frank M. Johnson, Jr. Federal Building & U.S. Courthouse,  
One Church Street, A-300, Montgomery, AL 36104  
Tel: (334) 954-3640 Fax: (334) 954-3649

#### Mark E. Fuller

Chief Judge

Date of Birth: December 27, 1958  
Education: Alabama 1982 BS, 1985 JD  
Began Service: December 2, 2002  
Appointed By: President George W. Bush

**Government:** Chief Assistant District Attorney, 12th Judicial Circuit, State of Alabama (1996-1997); District Attorney, 12th Judicial Circuit, State of Alabama (1997-2002)

**Legal Practice:** Associate, Cassidy, Fuller & Marsh (1985-1986); Partner, Cassidy, Fuller & Marsh (1986-1996)

#### Staff

Law Clerk **Barbara Wells** ..... (334) 954-3640

#### Chambers of District Judge Myron H. Thompson

Frank M. Johnson, Jr. Federal Building & U.S. Courthouse,  
One Church Street, Montgomery, AL 36104  
Tel: (334) 954-3650

#### Myron H. Thompson

District Judge

Date of Birth: 1947  
Education: Yale 1969 BA, 1972 JD  
Began Service: September 29, 1980  
Appointed By: President Jimmy Carter

**Government:** Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General, United States Department of Justice (1972-1974)

**Legal Practice:** Partner, Thompson & Faulk (1979-1980)

**Current Memberships:** Alabama Bar Association; Alabama Lawyers Association; American Bar Association; National Bar Association

#### Staff

Law Clerk **Danielle Goldstein** ..... (334) 954-3652  
Law Clerk **Daniel Korobkin** ..... (334) 954-3654  
Law Clerk **Tashwanda Pinchback** ..... (334) 954-3653  
Secretary **Lillian C. Thomas** ..... (334) 954-3651  
E-mail: [lillian\\_thomas@almd.uscourts.gov](mailto:lillian_thomas@almd.uscourts.gov)  
Education: Fort Valley State 1963 BS

#### Chambers of District Judge W. Keith Watkins

Frank M. Johnson, Jr. Federal Building & U.S. Courthouse,  
One Church Street, Montgomery, AL 36104  
Tel: (334) 954-3600

#### W. Keith Watkins

District Judge

Education: Auburn 1973 BS; Alabama 1976 JD  
Began Service: December 30, 2005  
Appointed By: President George W. Bush

#### Staff

Court Reporter **Risa Entrekin** ..... (334) 954-3600

#### Chambers of Senior Judge Truman M. Hobbs

Frank M. Johnson, Jr. Federal Building & U.S. Courthouse,  
One Church Street, Montgomery, AL 36104  
Tel: (334) 954-3968

#### Truman M. Hobbs

Senior Judge

Date of Birth: 1921  
Education: North Carolina 1942 AB; Yale 1948 LLB  
Began Service: April 14, 1980  
Appointed By: President Jimmy Carter  
Political Affiliation: Democrat

**Clerkships:** Law Clerk The Honorable Hugo Black, Supreme Court of the United States (1948-1949)

**Government:** Chairman, Alabama Unemployment Appeal Board (1952-1958)

**Legal Practice:** Partner, Hobbs, Copeland, Franco & Screws (1949-1980)

**Military Service:** United States Navy (1942-1946)

**Current Memberships:** Alabama Bar Association; American Bar Association; American College of Trial Lawyers; American Trial Lawyers Association; International Academy of Trial Lawyers; Montgomery County Bar Association

#### Chambers of Senior Judge Ira DeMent

Frank M. Johnson, Jr. Federal Building & U.S. Courthouse,  
One Church Street, Montgomery, AL 36104  
P.O. Box 2149, Montgomery, AL 36102  
Tel: (334) 954-3680

#### Ira DeMent

Senior Judge

Date of Birth: 1931  
Education: Alabama 1953 AB, 1958 JD  
Began Service: April 15, 1992  
Appointed By: President George H.W. Bush  
Political Affiliation: Republican

**Academic:** Instructor, Jones Law School (1962-1964); Instructor, United States Infantry School (1962-1963); Instructor, Montgomery Police Academy (1964-1977); Lecturer in Constitutional Law, Alabama Police Academy (1971-1975); Adjunct Faculty, The New College, University of Alabama (1974-1975); Adjunct Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Alabama (1975-1992); Lecturer, Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University (1977)

**Clerkships:** Law Clerk The Honorable Pelham J. Merrill, Alabama Supreme Court (1958-1959)

**Government:** Assistant United States Attorney, Middle District of Alabama, United States Department of Justice (1959-1961); Assistant City Attorney, Police and Fire Departments, City of Montgomery, Alabama (1965-1969); Special Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General, United States Department of Justice (1966-1969); United States Attorney, Middle District of Alabama, United States Department of Justice (1969-1977)

**Judicial:** Judge, Wake Island Court of Appeals (1985)

**Legal Practice:** Partner, Whitesell & DeMent; Partner, Whitesell, Alton & DeMent (1962-1965); Partner, DeMent & Wise (1982-1987)

**Military Service:** Major General (Retired), United States Army (1953-1974)

**Current Memberships:** Alabama State Bar; American Bar Association; American Inn of Court Chapter; District of Columbia Bar; Federal Bar Association; Montgomery County Bar Association

#### Staff

Staff Attorney **Laura Wright** ..... (334) 954-3680  
Education: Mercer 1994 JD  
Judicial Assistant **Bonnie Lane** ..... (334) 954-3680

#### Chambers of Senior Judge W. Harold Albritton III

U.S. Courthouse Complex, One Church Street, Montgomery, AL 36104  
P.O. Box 629, Montgomery, AL 36101  
Tel: (334) 954-3710 Fax: (334) 954-3615

#### W. Harold Albritton III

Senior Judge

Date of Birth: 1936  
Education: Alabama 1959 AB, 1960 LLB  
Began Service: May 1991  
Appointed By: President George H.W. Bush

**Corporate:** Director, The Commercial Bank (1983-1985); Director, First Alabama Bank (1985-1991)

**Judicial:** Chief Judge, United States District Court for the Middle District of Alabama (1998-2004)

**Legal Practice:** Partner, Albrittons, Givhan & Clifton (and predecessor firms) (1962-1991)

**Military Service:** United States Army (1960-1962); United States Army Reserve (1962-1968)

**Current Memberships:** Alabama Bar Foundation; Alabama State Bar; American Bar Foundation; American College of Trial Lawyers; American Inns of Court - Montgomery Chapter; American Judicature Society; United States District Judges Association

#### Chambers of Senior Judge W. Harold Albritton III *continued*

#### Staff

Law Clerk **Lisa Harden** ..... (334) 954-3710  
Education: Rhodes 1993 BA; Alabama 1996 JD  
Law Clerk **Daniel Harrell** ..... (334) 954-3710  
Education: Cumberland 2006 JD  
Judicial Assistant **Elna B. Behrman** ..... (334) 954-3710  
Education: Troy State 1998 BA

#### Chambers of Chief Magistrate Judge Charles S. Coody

U.S. Courthouse, One Church Street, Montgomery, AL 36104  
Tel: (334) 954-3700 Fax: (334) 954-3709  
E-mail: [Charles\\_Coody@almd.uscourts.gov](mailto:Charles_Coody@almd.uscourts.gov)

#### Charles S. Coody

Chief Magistrate Judge

Date of Birth: 1946  
Education: Spring Hill 1968 BS; Alabama 1975 JD  
Began Service: May 1, 1987  
Term Expires: April 30, 2011

**Clerkships:** Law Clerk The Honorable T. Embry, Alabama Supreme Court (1975)

**Government:** General Counsel, Alabama State Board of Education (1978-1987)

**Legal Practice:** Associate, Smith, Bowman, Thaggard, Crook & Culpepper (1976-1978)

**Military Service:** United States Army (1968-1972)

**Current Memberships:** Alabama State Bar Association; Hugh Maddox Inn of Court

#### Staff

Career Law Clerk **Wynn Dee Allen** ..... (334) 954-3700  
E-mail: [wynn\\_allen@almd.uscourts.gov](mailto:wynn_allen@almd.uscourts.gov)  
Education: Alabama 1997 JD  
Career Law Clerk **Corrie Long** ..... (334) 954-3700  
E-mail: [corrie\\_p\\_long@almd.uscourts.gov](mailto:corrie_p_long@almd.uscourts.gov)  
Education: Georgia 1988 JD

#### Chambers of Magistrate Judge Vanzetta Penn McPherson

Frank M. Johnson, Jr. U.S. Courthouse Complex, One Church Street,  
Montgomery, AL 36104  
P.O. Box 1629, Montgomery, AL 36102  
Tel: (334) 954-3730 Fax: (334) 954-3735

#### Vanzetta Penn McPherson

Magistrate Judge

Date of Birth: 1947  
Education: Howard U 1969 BS;  
Columbia 1971 MA, 1974 JD  
Began Service: April 6, 1992  
Term Expires: 2008



**Academic:** Adjunct Lecturer, Evidence, University of Alabama Law School (1978)

**Government:** Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General, United States Department of Justice (1975-1978)

**Judicial:** Magistrate, Montgomery County Family Court

**Legal Practice:** Associate, Hughes, Hubbard & Reed (1974-1975); Private Practice (1978-1992)

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